

Obie Williams photo

GENERAL INFORMATION

LICENSES AND PERMITS

GENERAL HUNTER LICENSING

If you take or attempt to take game, you are considered a hunter and therefore subject to licensing requirements unless specifically exempted by law. Unless you fall into one of the categories listed below, you must obtain and carry while in the field proof that you've met the license requirements for the kind of hunting you're doing. This proof can be either a paper license/permit or a license authorization number. If you can't show you're licensed properly while you're hunting, you risk being issued a citation.

Each hunter must have his or her own license or permit. Paper licenses and permits must be signed and the hunter information portion (signature, address, eye and hair color, sex, height and weight) completed before going afield.

LICENSE-EXEMPT HUNTERS

In some cases, a resident hunter may not be required to buy a hunting

license, permits to hunt deer, bear or turkey, or a Kentucky Waterfowl Permit. Here are those situations:

- Kentucky resident owners of farmlands, their spouses and dependent children hunting **upon their own farmlands** during an open season;
- Tenants, their spouses and dependent children hunting on farmlands **where they reside and work**; and
- Kentucky residents on military leave of more than three days in this state who carry identification and papers that verify their leave status.
- Members of any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces based in Kentucky engaged in sport hunting or fishing on these Kentucky National Guard properties: Hidden Valley Training Area in Powell County, and the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Muhlenberg County.

Resident and nonresident children under the age of 12 are not required to

Other laws apply!

Hunters exempt from buying licenses and permits are required to follow hunting season laws, bag limits, comply with the hunter orange clothing law, and follow hunter harvest recording, checking and tagging requirements. Kentucky landowners, their legal dependents and their tenants, as described above, are subject to the usual license requirements anytime they hunt somewhere other than their own lands.

purchase licenses and permits, except the elk lottery application.

Hunters eligible to participate in the Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week or Free Youth Deer Hunting Weekend, and adults who accompany a youth hunter but are not hunting themselves, are not required to have a license

or permit during these seasons.

WHICH LICENSE OR PERMIT?

Deer, elk, turkey and bear

Both an annual hunting license and an additional permit are required for hunters 12 and older. Hunters under 12 must purchase elk lottery applications.

Waterfowl and other migratory birds

In addition to a Kentucky hunting license (annual or short-term), permits are required for ages 16 and older as follows:

- **Kentucky Migratory Bird Permit:** required to hunt dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails and gallinules.
- **Kentucky Waterfowl Permit:** required to hunt ducks, geese, coots and mergansers. This permit also covers the species permitted by the Kentucky Migratory Bird Permit.
- **Federal Duck Stamp:** required in addition to the Kentucky Waterfowl Permit to hunt ducks, geese, coots and mergansers. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service requirement; available at post offices and online at www.duckstamp.com.

All other species

For hunters 12 and older, only a hunting license (annual, short-term, or a license that includes the hunting privilege) is required for everything else, except that no license or permit is needed to take exotic species as noted in the Small Game & Furbearers section of this guide.

Shooting preserve license

A \$5 shooting preserve license is available to Kentucky residents and nonresidents, online at fw.ky.gov only. This license is for hunters who do not already possess a regular hunting license. The license is valid for one license year, and for one shooting preserve only (which must be indicated at the time of purchase.)

SHORT-TERM LICENSES

The following short-term licenses are valid for all types of hunting **except** deer, elk, turkey and bear. (Hunting those four species requires an **annual** hunting license along with the appropriate permit. Bear permits are available only to Kentucky residents.) Short-term

licenses are valid **only** for the 1- or 5-day period shown on the license.

- **1-Day Hunting License:** available to residents and nonresidents.
- **5-Day Hunting License:** available **only** to nonresidents.

HIP SURVEYS

When purchasing a Kentucky Waterfowl Permit, Kentucky Migratory Bird Permit, or any license that includes those permits, hunters are required by federal law to complete a harvest information program (HIP) survey at the time of purchase. Your license retailer (or phone operator) will ask you questions to fill out this survey. If you purchase your license online, you will be prompted to answer those questions at the end of your purchase.

You can buy licenses and permits online. Scan this symbol with your smartphone for quick access to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's website!



HOW TO BUY LICENSES AND PERMITS

It is the hunter's responsibility to know what type of license or permit is needed. Consult the Which Permit Do I Need tables on page 6.

If you are still unsure what license or permit you should buy, call Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549, during office hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

IN PERSON

Licenses and permits can be purchased throughout the state at about 900 locations, including country stores, some county court clerk offices, local hunting and fishing businesses, and some chain stores that sell outdoor sporting goods. License vendor locations are listed on the department's website: fw.ky.gov.

OVER THE TELEPHONE

Licenses and permits can be purchased over the telephone 24 hours a day, by calling toll-free at 1-877-598-2401.

All Kentucky hunting and fishing

licenses and permits, except a disability license, elk lottery application and all youth licenses and permits, can be purchased over the telephone.

ON THE INTERNET

All Kentucky hunting and fishing licenses and permits, except a Joint Husband/Wife Fishing License, can be

purchased on the department's website: fw.ky.gov.

By phone:

Call toll-free 1-877-598-2401

Persons purchasing by phone:

1. Must use Visa, Mastercard, Discover or e-check;
2. Will be charged a small fee;
3. Must provide their name, address, date of birth and Social Security number;
4. Will be issued a paper license/permit by mail (except short-term licenses);
5. Will be issued an authorization number which serves as a license/permit until paper license/permit is issued; and
6. Must have the authorization number in addition to a picture ID while hunting, if they have not yet received their paper license/permit in the mail.

By internet:

Visit fw.ky.gov

Persons purchasing online:

1. Must use Visa, Mastercard or Discover;
2. Must provide their name, address, date of birth and Social Security number;
3. Must carry proof of their license/permit (computer print out) and a picture ID while hunting; and
4. Will not receive a paper license/permit in the mail.

WHICH LICENSE OR PERMIT DO I NEED?

The tables below are a quick overview of current licensing requirements for hunting and trapping in Kentucky. See the rest of this section for exemp-

tions and complete residency, licensing and hunter education requirements. All elk and bear hunting requirements are explained in those sections.

Also: See page 9 for Senior/ Disability License eligibility.

NOTE: Licenses and permits for the species below are not required for kids under the age of 12.

KENTUCKY RESIDENTS	Ages 12-15	Ages 16-64	Ages 65 and over OR Disabled
Deer	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Deer Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Statewide Deer Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Fall Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Fall Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Spring Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Spring Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Small Game & Furbearer	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License	Senior/Disabled License
Trapping	Annual Youth Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License
Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird or Kentucky Waterfowl Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Waterfowl Permit† + Federal Duck Stamp	Senior/Disabled License + Federal Duck Stamp

NONRESIDENTS (must buy nonresident licenses/permits)	Ages 12-15	Ages 16 and over
Deer	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Deer Permit*	Annual Hunting License + Statewide Deer Permit
Fall Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License + Fall Turkey Permit
Spring Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License + Spring Turkey Permit
Small Game & Furbearer	Youth Hunting License*	Annual, 1-Day or 5-Day Hunting License
Trapping	Annual Trapping License	Annual Trapping License
Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual, 1-Day or 5-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird or Kentucky Waterfowl Permit
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual, 1-Day or 5-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Waterfowl Permit + Federal Duck Stamp

*Included in Youth Sportsman's License

†Included in Resident Sportsman's License



HIP survey required (also required for Resident Sportsman's License)
(You will be asked survey questions during your purchase)

Q: Who needs a federal duck stamp?

A: Hunters ages 16 and over must get a **federal** duck stamp (available from post offices and at www.duckstamp.com) to hunt ducks, geese, coots and mergansers. This is not included in the Sportsman's or Senior/Disabled licenses.

Q: Are the Kentucky Waterfowl Permit and the Kentucky Migratory Bird Permit the same?

A: No. The Kentucky Waterfowl Permit covers all migratory birds, including ducks and geese. The Kentucky Migratory Bird Permit covers just doves, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails and gallinules.

LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

	LICENSE / PERMIT	Resident	Nonresident
LICENSES	Annual Fishing	\$20.00	\$50.00
	Joint Husband/Wife Annual Fishing	\$36.00	Not available
	1-Day Fishing	\$7.00	\$10.00
	Nonresident 7-Day Fishing	Not available	\$30.00
	Nonresident 15-Day Fishing	Not available	\$40.00
	Trout Permit	\$10.00	
	Annual Hunting	\$20.00	\$130.00
	1-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	\$7.00	\$10.00
	5-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	Not available	\$40.00
	Annual Youth Hunting (ages 12-15 only)	\$5.00	
	Shooting Preserve License (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5.00	
	Annual Trapping	\$20.00	\$130.00
	Annual Landowner/Tenant Trapping	\$10.00	Not available
	Annual Youth (ages 12-15) Trapping	\$5.00	Not available
COMBO LICENSES	Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$30.00	Not available
	Senior/Disabled Combination Hunting/Fishing* (Includes same license and permits as Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits.)	\$5.00	Not available
	Sportsman's License* (Includes combination hunting/fishing, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, state waterfowl permit and trout permit.)	\$95.00	Not available
	Youth (ages 12-15) Sportsman's License* (Includes youth hunting license, youth deer permit and youth turkey permit.)	\$25.00	
DEER	Statewide Deer Permit (two deer)	\$30.00	\$60.00
	Youth (ages 12-15) Deer Permit (one deer)	\$10.00	
	Additional Deer Permit (two deer)	\$15.00	
BIRDS	Spring Turkey Permit (statewide) (two turkeys)	\$30.00	\$60.00
	Youth (ages 12-15) Turkey Permit (one turkey, spring or fall)	\$10.00	
	Fall Turkey Permit (statewide)(four turkeys)	\$30.00	\$60.00
	Kentucky Waterfowl Permit	\$15.00	
	Migratory Bird Permit	\$10.00	
	Federal Duck Stamp (available at post offices and online at www.duckstamp.com)	\$15.00	
ELK	Elk Lottery Application (deadline April 30; available at fw.ky.gov only)	\$10.00	
	Youth WMA Elk Lottery (deadline April 30; available at fw.ky.gov only)	\$10.00	
	Elk Quota Hunt Permit (if drawn)	\$30.00	\$365.00
	Out-of-Zone Elk Permit	\$30.00	\$365.00
AREAS	Peabody WMA User Permit	\$15.00	
	Land Between the Lakes (LBL) Hunter Use Permit	\$20.00	
	Otter Creek ORA Admission Fees (per person) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$3.00, annual: \$30.00, children under 12: free.	
	Otter Creek ORA Special Activity Fees (per person, for use of horse trails, mountain bike trails and shooting range) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$7.00, annual: \$70.00	
OTHER	Bear Permit	\$30.00	Not available
	Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5.00	

*Peabody, LBL and Otter Creek permits, elk lottery application, elk quota hunt permit, out-of-zone elk permit, additional deer permit, bear permit, federal duck stamp and trapping license not included.

Kentucky's license year begins March 1 and continues through the last day of February. New licenses are required annually. A 1-day or 5-day hunting license is valid only for the period shown on license.

Resident and nonresident youth under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses or permits (except the elk lottery application).

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

SPORTSMAN'S LICENSE - SAVE \$50!

Available to Kentucky residents only, the Sportsman's License includes a combination hunting and fishing license, spring and fall turkey permits, statewide deer permit, state waterfowl permit (which also covers dove and other migratory bird hunting) and trout permit. A federal duck stamp (available at post offices and online at www.duckstamp.com) is required for waterfowl hunting.

YOUTH HUNTER LICENSING

Resident and non-resident hunters under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses and permits, except for the elk lottery application. Persons under 12 years old, who have passed a hunter education course, may hunt small game, furbearers and waterfowl without being accompanied by an adult.

Resident and non-resident hunters ages 12-15 are eligible to purchase discounted licenses and permits, which are valid for the entire license year, if they are purchased before the youth's

Warning!

Persons convicted of providing false information regarding residency eligibility for purposes of purchasing hunting and fishing licenses and permits are subject to fines up to \$200 in addition to loss of hunting/fishing privileges for up to three years and seizure of hunting/fishing equipment.

16th birthday. Persons 15 years of age and under who hunt turkey, elk, deer or bear with a firearm must always be accompanied by an adult.

The \$5 Annual Youth Hunting License authorizes the holder to hunt all small game species and migratory bird species. Hunters 15 and younger are exempt from purchasing a Kentucky waterfowl or Kentucky migratory bird permit, and a federal duck stamp.

A youth hunting license shall not be issued without the written permission of a parent or guardian, or person having custody of the youth hunter, who shall sign the youth hunter's license to signify consent.

The \$10 Youth Deer Permit allows the hunter to take one deer.

The \$10 Youth Turkey Permit allows the hunter to take one turkey.

The \$25 Youth Sportsman's License includes a youth hunting license, youth deer permit and youth turkey permit.

For specific permit requirements for youth deer hunting see page 19, and page 26 for youth turkey hunting.

During the Free Youth Hunting and Trapping Week (Dec. 29, 2012 - Jan. 4, 2013), resident and nonresident hunters 15 and under may hunt or trap small game and furbearers without a license. All other regulations and limits apply.

Youth hunters who hunt deer or out-of-zone elk with a firearm during the Free Youth Deer Hunting Weekend (Dec. 29-30, 2012) are not required to have a deer or out-of-zone elk permit, but must be accompanied by an adult, and follow all other deer/elk hunting regulations.

Hunter education is not required for youth to participate in the Free Youth Deer Hunting Weekend, or the Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week, but is strongly recommended.

NONRESIDENT LICENSING

Those who do not meet the definition of a Kentucky resident are required to purchase nonresident licenses and permits. A resident is any person who has established permanent domicile and legal residence and has resided in Kentucky for 30 days prior to purchasing a license, full-time students enrolled in an educational institution for at least a six-month term, and military service personnel on permanent assignment in Kentucky.

Nonresident youth hunters are subject to the same license and permit requirements as resident youth hunters.

Q: Does a nonresident who owns land in Kentucky have to buy non-resident licenses and permits?

A: Yes. All nonresidents must purchase nonresident licenses and permits.

Lost licenses and permits

Persons who need a replacement license or permit have three options:

1. Print a replacement online at fw.ky.gov. Click on "Licenses & Permits," then the "Lost Your License?" tab.
2. Purchase the same type of license or permit from any license vendor, ask them for a license refund form (or print one at fw.ky.gov), fill it out and send it to: KDFWR Licensing, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. You will receive a refund minus a \$5 handling fee.
3. Send \$5, your name, address, date of birth and Social Security number, and which license(s) or permits you lost to: KDFWR Licensing, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. The department will replace the license/permit once verification of original purchase occurs. Replacement may take up to 3 weeks.

TRAPPING LICENSE

A trapping license is required of all resident and nonresident trappers ages 12 and older, including landowners/tenants unless otherwise provided by law.

A trapping license is not included in any other combination license package. Landowner/tenant trapping licenses are only valid for landowners, tenants or their dependents trapping on their own property.

YOUTH TRAPPING LICENSE

Trappers under the age of 12 are not required to purchase a trapping license. A youth trapping license is available for resident trappers ages 12-15. Trapping licenses are available from license agents across the state, online at fw.ky.gov and by phone at 1-877-598-2401.

RESIDENT SENIOR AND DISABILITY LICENSES

The following are eligible to purchase the \$5 Senior or Disability Combination Hunting and Fishing License (which includes the same license and permits as the Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits):

- Kentucky residents 65 years of age or older.
- Kentucky residents certified totally and permanently disabled by the Federal Social Security Administration, a state Workers Compensation Board, the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System or the United States Railroad Retirement Board.
- Kentucky resident employees of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, declared totally and permanently disabled by a recognized authority.
- Kentucky resident veterans at least 50% disabled as the result of a service-connected disability.

Seniors need only show proof of age and residency to purchase this license. Persons with disabilities listed above must first obtain a disability authorization card from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

To obtain a disability license authorization card:

If your disability is through the:

- **Federal Social Security Administration:** Contact your local Social Security office and request a form showing your name, address, Social Security number and date of birth, which states that you are disabled and drawing benefits. Send form to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- **Veteran's Administration:** Contact your local VA office and request a letter that verifies you are at least 50% disabled as a result of a service-connected disability. Send letter to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- **State Worker's Compensation Board:** Request an application from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, fill it out and send it to the State Worker's Compensation Board.
- **United States Railroad Retirement Board:** Contact the Board and request a letter stating you are 100% totally and permanently disabled. Send letter to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- **Kentucky Teacher Retirement System:** Contact the Teacher Retirement System and request written documentation stating you are on disability retirement. Send documentation to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- **United States Office of Personnel Management:** Contact the federal Office of Personnel Management and obtain certification of employment and documentation of being 100% disabled. Send documentation to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

Once the proper documentation is processed, applicants will receive their authorization card by mail. The authorization card is not a license. It must be presented to the license seller, or the authorization number entered online, at the time of purchase.

License vendors cannot sell a disability license using an expired authorization card.

Senior and Disability Combination Licenses are valid through the end of February like any other license. If you lose your card, you may contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at the above address for a replacement.

Mail or fax

Except for those who qualify for a Disability License through Worker's Compensation, mail or fax your disability certification to:

KDFWR Disability License
#1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601
FAX: (502) 564-9845

You may also bring the documentation in person to the department office in Frankfort at #1 Sportsman's Lane during business hours 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Monday - Friday.

Q: For how long is a disability authorization card valid?

A: A disability authorization card is valid for three years (check the expiration date on your card). Every three years, you must provide updated paperwork (following the instructions to the left) and get a new card.

Those who already have a disability authorization card through the Veteran's Administration, Railroad Retirement Board or Office of Personnel Management may call 1-800-310-1873 to get a new card.

Carry proof

Holders of Disability Combination Licenses must carry both the license and authorization card while hunting. Once a person who qualifies for this license reaches age 65, he or she is considered a senior for licensing purposes, and no longer needs to follow the process of obtaining a disability license authorization card.

RECORDING, CHECKING, TAGGING AND TRANSPORTING

Harvested Deer, Elk, Turkey, Bear, Bobcat and Otter

All successful deer, elk, turkey and bear hunters, and bobcat and otter hunters/trappers, including those who are license-exempt, must record, check, tag and transport these species according to the following regulations.

BASIC GUIDELINES

- You must have a **completed** hunter harvest log with you for **each** harvested deer, elk, turkey, bear, bobcat or otter anytime you're in the field hunting or trapping that species.
- You must be able to show you have the correct licenses and permits for the game you intend to take, unless you are license/permit exempt.
- Meat processors and taxidermists are prohibited by law from accepting any part of an unchecked or untagged deer, elk, turkey, bear, bobcat or otter.

RECORDING

All successful hunters and trappers must write down harvest information on a hunter harvest log as soon as the animal is recovered and before it is moved. Blank spaces to fill in the required information are provided on the back of any paper license or permit. Otherwise, you may obtain a blank log sheet from a license dealer or make one yourself and complete it as explained on page 11.

Log information should be written in ink.

Although there are spaces to record five animals on a pre-printed harvest log, that doesn't necessarily mean you can take that many animals. Season bag limits are in place for each species.

Completing the hunter harvest log:

- If you have a paper license or permit, simply fill in the blanks on the back as indicated on page 11.
- ALL hunters not required to have a license/permit, or who have only a license authorization number, must create their own hunter harvest log and follow the same requirements as noted on page 11 after taking these species.

Telecheck:

**1-800-CHK-GAME
(1-800-245-4263)**

CHECKING (TELECHECK)

All harvested animals must be telechecked through the toll-free, automated phone-in system **by midnight on the day the animal is recovered**, with the following exceptions and additional restrictions:

- Bears must be telechecked before the hunter leaves the department check-in station.
- Deer and elk must be telechecked before removing the hide or head.
- Harvested animals must be telechecked before being transported out of Kentucky.

When you call, you will be asked a short series of questions, including your **Social Security number** and the **code number for the county** where you took the animal. The county code chart appears on page 11.

You can check multiple animals during the same call. It takes about five minutes each. **Entering false information is unlawful.**

Q: Due to a cell phone dropped call, a hunter loses a confirmation number. Should the animal be checked in again?

A: No. To get that Telecheck confirmation number, call the department at 1-800-858-1549 the next business day.

TAGGING

Placing a carcass tag on a harvested deer, elk, turkey, bobcat or otter is only required when the carcass leaves the possession of the hunter who took the animal. (Bear tagging requirements are explained in the Bear section.) Harvested animals in a hunter's possession

CALLING TELECHECK

1. Call toll-free 1-800-245-4263. It's in service 24 hours a day while seasons are open.
2. Listen to each question carefully and provide the requested information using the keypad on any touch-tone phone. You will be asked to indicate the animal's species and sex, type of equipment used, whether the land was private or public and what type of license you used (or if you are a landowner).

Sex of deer: Hunters who take button bucks should check the deer as "male" and then choose "no visible antler" when prompted.

License: You will be given the following choices: Statewide License, \$5 Senior/Disabled License, Landowner, Deer Control Tag, Trapping License, Elk Permit or Out-of-Zone Elk Permit. Youth under 12, youth who check deer taken during the Free Youth Deer Hunting Weekend, or license exempt military personnel should select "Statewide License." Landowners who take animals somewhere other than on property they own must have the proper license/permit and answer accordingly.

3. Once your harvest information has been entered correctly, you will be asked to hold while the system submits your survey information. Be prepared to write down the **confirmation number** given by the system on the hunter harvest log for the animal you are checking in.

are assumed to be his or hers, unless they bear a carcass tag stating otherwise. An individual in possession of an untagged animal must have a fully completed hunter harvest log for **each animal**.

If an animal leaves the possession of the person who harvested it, that hunter must first make and attach a carcass tag to the animal that clearly includes the following information:

1. Hunter's name.
2. Hunter's phone number; and
3. Animal's telecheck confirmation number.

CITES Tagging for Bobcat & Otter

Hunters or trappers who intend to sell the raw fur of a bobcat or otter must go online to fw.ky.gov or call 1-800-858-1549, provide their Telecheck confirmation number, and request a CITES tag. This tag shall be attached per the instructions included with the mailed tag and remain with the pelt until it is processed. Possession of an unused bobcat or otter CITES tag is prohibited, unless authorized by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. A CITES tag may substitute for a hand-made carcass tag. The process of selling furs is described in the Small Game & Furbearers section.

TRANSPORTING

Hunters bringing any deer or elk, or parts of deer or elk, into Kentucky shall have proof that the animal was legally harvested elsewhere **and shall do so in compliance with the carcass importation laws outlined on page 19.**

HOW TO FILL OUT THE HUNTER HARVEST LOG

BEFORE YOU MOVE THE ANIMAL FROM THE SPOT IT WAS FOUND:

Step 1: Mark the box for the appropriate species and fill in the date, county and sex of the animal. Bear hunters will need to write "bear." Put the harvest log back in your pocket.

WHEN YOU CALL TO CHECK IN THE ANIMAL:

Step 2: Write the Telecheck confirmation number on the harvest log, and keep the log information in your possession whenever you are in the field during the deer, elk, turkey, bear, bobcat or otter season.

Carcass tags

Carcass tags must be placed on the animal before the hunter gives it to or leaves it with someone else; or leaves a deer, for example, hanging unattended in a deer camp or elsewhere. Hunters must also telecheck the animal first and write the confirmation number on the carcass tag as proof of doing so. The easiest item to use as a carcass tag is an index card. The carcass tag must remain attached until processing begins or the hunter returns to take possession of the carcass.

Reminder: All hunters must fill out a hunter harvest log. Carcass tags are only required if the carcass leaves your possession.

KENTUCKY COUNTY CODE NUMBERS FOR TELECHECK

001	Adair	025	Clark	049	Harrison	073	McCracken	097	Perry
002	Allen	026	Clay	050	Hart	074	McCreary	098	Pike
003	Anderson	027	Clinton	051	Henderson	075	McLean	099	Powell
004	Ballard	028	Crittenden	052	Henry	076	Madison	100	Pulaski
005	Barren	029	Cumberland	053	Hickman	077	Magoffin	101	Robertson
006	Bath	030	Daviess	054	Hopkins	078	Marion	102	Rockcastle
007	Bell	031	Edmonson	055	Jackson	079	Marshall	103	Rowan
008	Boone	032	Elliott	056	Jefferson	080	Martin	104	Russell
009	Bourbon	033	Estill	057	Jessamine	081	Mason	105	Scott
010	Boyd	034	Fayette	058	Johnson	082	Meade	106	Shelby
011	Boyle	035	Fleming	059	Kenton	083	Menifee	107	Simpson
012	Bracken	036	Floyd	060	Knott	084	Mercer	108	Spencer
013	Breathitt	037	Franklin	061	Knox	085	Metcalfe	109	Taylor
014	Breckinridge	038	Fulton	062	Larue	086	Monroe	110	Todd
015	Bullitt	039	Gallatin	063	Laurel	087	Montgomery	111	Trigg
016	Butler	040	Garrard	064	Lawrence	088	Morgan	112	Trimble
017	Caldwell	041	Grant	065	Lee	089	Muhlenberg	113	Union
018	Calloway	042	Graves	066	Leslie	090	Nelson	114	Warren
019	Campbell	043	Grayson	067	Letcher	091	Nicholas	115	Washington
020	Carlisle	044	Green	068	Lewis	092	Ohio	116	Wayne
021	Carroll	045	Greenup	069	Lincoln	093	Oldham	117	Webster
022	Carter	046	Hancock	070	Livingston	094	Owen	118	Whitley
023	Casey	047	Hardin	071	Logan	095	Owsley	119	Wolfe
024	Christian	048	Harlan	072	Lyon	096	Pendleton	120	Woodford

OTHER HUNTING REGULATIONS

LANDOWNER PERMISSION

A person **SHALL NOT ENTER** upon the lands of another to hunt, trap or fish **WITHOUT** the oral or written **PERMISSION** of the landowner, tenant or person who has authority to grant permission. Those who fail to obtain permission are subject to arrest and prosecution. Railroad tracks and rights of way are privately owned property and permission to hunt, trap or fish must be obtained prior to entry.

Q: Can game or hunting dogs be retrieved from another person's land without permission?

A: No. You **MUST** have permission to enter private property. Landowners are under no obligation to allow hunters to retrieve game or dogs from their land. Think before you shoot when hunting near a property line. You may not be able to retrieve your game.

HUNTER EDUCATION LAW

Kentucky's Hunter Education Law became mandatory in 1991. It states that all hunters, if required to purchase a Kentucky hunting license and **born on or after January 1, 1975**, must carry a valid hunter education course completion card while hunting any species. Hunters not required to have licenses or permits are exempt from hunter education certification.

A one-time hunter education exemption permit is available only online at fw.ky.gov. This \$5 permit allows hunting without a hunter education card for one year from the date of purchase. After it expires, the hunter is no longer exempt and must successfully complete a hunter education course.

The one-time hunter education exemption permit is valid only in Kentucky, and is not accepted at the Bluegrass Army Depot or Fort Campbell.

Hunter education cards and temporary hunter education exemption permits are not required when buying a license or permits, but **must be in the hunter's possession while hunting**.

Hunter education cards obtained from other states are valid in Kentucky.

Resident landowners are only license and hunter education-exempt when hunting on their own property. They must be licensed and comply with the hunter education law when hunting on other public or private lands.

Children under 12 years old are exempt from Kentucky's Hunter Education Law.

Hunters under 12 years of age, and hunters who have a temporary hunter education exemption permit, must be accompanied by an adult who meets the hunter education requirement. The adult shall be in a position to take immediate control of the child's or exempted hunter's bow or firearm at all times while hunting. This law applies even if the exempted hunter is an adult. One adult may not accompany more than two youth hunters at the same time.

A bowhunter not in possession of a firearm while hunting may carry a valid National Bowhunter Education Program course completion card instead of the hunter education card.

Hunter education courses are held around the state. A course schedule is available at fw.ky.gov or by calling 1-800-858-1549.

Children must be at least **nine** years of age to take the hunter education course. Persons who complete the course are issued an orange (certification) card.

Free replacement hunter education cards can be printed online at fw.ky.gov. Replacements are also available for \$5 by mailing the replacement fee and the following information to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Hunter Education Program at the address on the front of this guide: name, current address, date of birth, phone number, when and where the course was taken, and the mailing address at the time the course was taken if different from the current address. The replacement fee must be received before the card will be mailed.

HUNTER ORANGE CLOTHING LAW

Hunter orange garments must be worn as the outer coverings and must be worn at all times while in the field

Orange is the law!

Kentucky's Hunter Orange Clothing Law requires **ALL HUNTERS** and persons accompanying them, hunting for any species during the modern gun, muzzleloading, and youth firearm deer seasons, or a firearm elk or bear season to wear solid, unbroken hunter orange color visible from all sides on the head, back and chest.

hunting. Garments can be of mesh type material, as long as openings in the mesh weave are no wider than one-quarter inch by any measurement. Garments may display a small portion of another color.

The only exceptions are when hunting waterfowl during a gun deer season, or when hunting game that can legally be hunted at night (like opossum or raccoon, for example).

The following are examples of common Hunter Orange Clothing Law violations:

- Wearing camouflage-patterned hunter orange garments without additional solid hunter orange clothing on the head, back and chest.
- Wearing hunter orange clothing while walking to a stand and taking it off when you get there.
- Hunting squirrel, rabbit or quail when and where a firearm deer or elk season is also open without wearing hunter orange clothing.
- Hunting during a muzzleloading deer season without wearing hunter orange.

Hunter orange clothing is not required when hunting waterfowl or dove during a gun deer season, or when hunting game that can legally be hunted at night, such as opossum or raccoon. Hunters using archery equipment during deer firearms seasons must wear

Sunrise/sunset tables

Sunrise/sunset tables are online at: <http://www.usno.navy.mil/USNO/astronomical-applications/data-services/rs-one-day-us>

hunter orange clothing, and follow all firearm season restrictions, zone guidelines and hunting requirements in effect.

Archery hunters are also not required to wear hunter orange clothing during a firearms season on a state owned or managed WMA where firearms hunting for deer, elk or bear is prohibited. On these areas hunters are not required to wear hunter orange while hunting for deer or elk with archery equipment during firearms seasons.

SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for all species listed in this guide, except raccoons, opossums and frogs, are during daylight hours only – a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset. However, hunters may be in the field or stands before and after shooting hours.

Raccoons and opossums may be

taken day or night, except during modern gun deer season when raccoon and opossum hunting is permitted only at night.

HUNTING METHOD EXEMPTIONS

The department grants exemptions to hunters with certain physical disabilities to hunt with a crossbow during archery-only seasons, or to use a stationary vehicle as a hunting platform.

However, persons with qualifying physical disabilities must first have an exemption form completed and signed by a licensed physician certifying why the exemption is necessary. Forms are available from the department and online at fw.ky.gov. A completed exemption form serves as the hunter's exemption permit. It should not be returned to the department. Persons who obtain an exemption are still required to have the appropriate hunting license and permits, and must carry the signed exemption form with their hunting license and permits while in the field.

PROHIBITED HUNTING METHODS

- No person shall discharge any firearm, bow and arrow, crossbow or other similar device, upon, over or across any public roadway. Hunting is prohibited in highway or interstate medians and rights of way.
- No person shall take or attempt to take wildlife from an automobile, or other vehicle, except as prescribed by regulation. Hunting from boats is permitted for small game.

RIFLE & HANDGUN CALIBERS

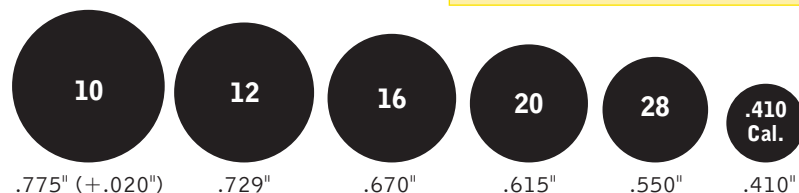
.45, .458
.44, .444
.40, 10mm
.357, .38, 9mm
.30, .30-06, .308, .32, 7.62mm, 8mm
.270, .280, 7mm
.22, .223, .243, .25, 5.56 mm, 6mm



Legal ammunition?

Check species sections for equipment restrictions.

SHOTGUN GAUGE SIZES



SHOT SIZES

Diameter	9	8½	8	7½	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	BB	BBB	T	F
	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Inches	.08	.085	.09	.095	.10	.11	.12	.13	.14	.15	.16	.18	.19	.20	.22
mm	2.03	2.16	2.29	2.41	2.54	2.79	3.05	3.30	3.56	3.81	4.06	4.57	4.83	5.08	5.59

- A person shall not pursue, chase or take a deer, elk, bear, or turkey (during the spring turkey season): with the aid of dogs; while on horseback; or when the deer, elk or bear is swimming. Dogs may be used to locate and flush turkeys during the fall turkey seasons only.
- It is illegal to feed bears directly or indirectly for any reason.
- No person shall take wildlife with the aid of fire, smoke, explosives or gas.
- Baiting is prohibited on all WMAs, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Daniel Boone National Forest, Jefferson National Forest and state parks open to hunting.
- Deer and elk hunters shall not use electronic decoys or calls.
- No person shall take a turkey when the turkey is roosting. (A roost is the place where a turkey spends the night.)
- A person hunting wild turkeys shall not use live turkeys as decoys.
- Wild turkeys or bears shall not be hunted by the aid of bait, nor shall areas be hunted where bait is present (this includes private lands baited for deer). An area is considered baited for 30 days after all bait has been removed. A baited area is any place where feed, grains or other substances capable of luring wild turkeys or bears have been placed. An area where grains or other feeds exist as the result of legitimate agricultural practices, or as the result of growing or manipulating a crop for wildlife management, is legal for hunting.

CONCEALED CARRY DEADLY WEAPONS PERMITS

Anyone who may legally possess firearms may carry firearms while hunting, but only persons with valid concealed carry deadly weapons permits may carry their firearms concealed.

CONVICTED FELONS

A person convicted of a felony is prohibited from possessing or hunting with a firearm in Kentucky. The prohibition on handguns applies to those convicted

after Jan. 1, 1975. The prohibition on other firearms applies to those convicted after July 15, 1994. (See KRS 527.040 for more details.)

SPOTLIGHTING

No person may deliberately cast the rays of a spotlight or other artificial light into any field, pasture, woodlands or forest, whether public or private, where wildlife or domestic livestock may reasonably be expected to be located. Shining artificial lights into private residences or other structures is also prohibited. This does not apply to: the rays of headlights of vehicles engaged in a normal course of travel; lights being used in legitimate agricultural activities; anyone involved in activities legitimate to his or her business or occupation; circumstances including lawful hunting activities; or any landowner, his or her immediate family or any paid employee while working on his or her land at that time. No person shall take wildlife, except raccoons, opossums, fishes and frogs, using lights or other means designed to blind wildlife or make wildlife visible at night.

GAME CALLING DEVICES & RESTRICTIONS

- Hand or mouth-operated calls may be used in hunting all species.
- Mechanical and electronic (digitally reproduced or tape-recorded sound) calls or attracting devices may only be used to take groundhogs, coyotes, wild hogs, English sparrows and starlings during daylight hours year-round.
- A hunter may use electronic calls or attracting devices for furbearers during the furbearer season. Mechanical and electronic calls may be used to take crows only during crow season.
- Deer, turkey and elk hunters shall not use or possess electronic calling devices.

TREE STANDS

Construction and use of tree stands on **private lands** is regulated by landowners, not the department.

The use of nails, spikes, screws, wire, or tree climbers is prohibited for attaching a tree stand or climbing a tree on: all department-owned or managed WMAs, state parks open to hunting, Daniel Boone National Forest, Clark's River National Wildlife Refuge, Jeffer-

son National Forest, Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Land Between the Lakes, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Fort Knox, Fort Campbell, Blue Grass Army Depot and Hidden Valley Training Area. Portable stands and tree climbers that do not injure trees may be used, but must be marked with the owner's name and address. Portable stands and tree climbers may be placed in trees no earlier than two weeks before the opening of the season and must be removed within one week after the season closes. Use of existing permanent tree stands is prohibited. On state parks open to hunting, tree stands must not be left unattended for more than 24 hours.

TRANSPORTATION AND HOLDING OF LIVE NATIVE WILDLIFE

A person may not take or possess live wildlife without first obtaining a permit when prescribed by regulation. A person shall not hold live native wildlife in captivity that was not legally taken or possessed. A person shall not buy or sell, offer to buy or sell, trade, or barter native wildlife or parts thereof obtained from the wild. Wildlife acquired prior to obtaining the proper permits may be confiscated and the holder fined. Orphaned wildlife may only be possessed by a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Persons transporting live deer or other types of cervids (members of the deer family) without proper documentation or permits, or holding live deer captive in unpermitted facilities or pens, are subject to severe fines and may have their animals confiscated or destroyed.

DOG TRAINING & HUNTING WITH DOGS

Hunters may run or train dogs for rabbits, foxes, coyotes, raccoons and opossums year-round as long as game is harvested only during an open hunting season. Some WMAs have special restrictions on using dogs, so check ahead of time. All members of the party must have a valid hunting license (unless license-exempt) to pursue rabbits or furbearers, even when training dogs without taking game. Dogs may not be used to chase, molest or hunt deer and elk. Dogs may be used to chase or hunt bears

if a legal season is open. Dogs are permitted for locating and flushing turkeys during the fall turkey season only, and dogs on leash are permitted for tracking and locating wounded deer, elk and bear. Except during the hunting season, raccoon and opossum hunters shall not use any device to force a raccoon or opossum from trees or dens. **Raccoon squallers may be used year-round.**

BOBWHITE SHOOT-TO-TRAIN SEASON

For the purpose of bird dog training on private lands only, pen-reared bobwhite quail may be harvested August 15 through May 15 (excluding bobwhite hunting season), provided that prior to shooting a person must:

- Possess a valid hunting license, or be license-exempt
- Submit a completed application to the department
- Possess proof of the sale/ownership of the birds
- Possess a captive wildlife permit for pen-reared bobwhite if more than 100 birds in possession, or if kept for more than 10 days
- Make sure that the training area is free of wild quail
- Pen-reared birds must be banded (No. 7 leg bands or department-supplied bands) before release

MIGRATORY BIRD & WATERFOWL HUNTING

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) governs migratory bird and waterfowl hunting. Season dates for these species are finalized by the USFWS in August, which is too late to be included in this guide. However, the first portion of the Kentucky dove season usually opens September 1 each year and runs through late October. Hunters should consult the 2012-13 Early and Late Season Migratory Bird and Waterfowl Hunting guides for complete details on migratory bird and waterfowl hunting in Kentucky, or check the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at fw.ky.gov a few days before the season is expected to open.